

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 184482 TOSEC 080138

EXDIS/FOR THE SECRETARY AND UNDERSECRETARY HABIB ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 5 CABLE HIGHLIGHTS

FOLLOWING ARE CABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR AUGUST 5, 1977

1. MENGISTU-TIENKEN MEETING

MENGISTU SAID HE WAS "DISAPPOINTED AND SURPRISED" THAT THE US HAD DECIDED TO PROVIDE ARMS AND MORAL SUPPORT TO SOMALIA. HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD REASSESS OUR POLICY ON THE HORN AND AVERRED THAT HE WOULD SOON APPOINT AN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON IN THE INTEREST OF IMPROVING RELATIONS. (ADDIS ABABA 4752, SECRET)

2. ETHIOPIA'S ROYAL REFUGEES

A SWEDISH NEWSPAPER REPORTED TODAY THAT TEN MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIA'S ROYAL FAMILY HAD ESCAPED FROM HOUSE ARREST IN ADDIS ABABA AND SURFACED IN SWEDEN. NO MENTION WAS MADE, SECRET

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HOWEVER, OF THE MISSIONARY CONNECTION, PLANS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL, OR ANY POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS.
(STOCKHOLM 3244, CONF)

3. CHAD'S SEARCH FOR ARMS

EGYPT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND SERVE AS A

THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFER POINT FOR US ARMS. FOREIGN
MINISTER KAMOUGUE INTENDS TO SEEK SIMILAR COMMITMENTS IN
PERSONAL VISITS TO JIDDA, AMMAN, AND TEHRAN. (NDJAMENA
2678, CONF)

4. CANADIAN PIPELINE DECISION

CABINET SUPPORT FOR THE ALCAN ROUTE HAS YET TO JELL,
WITH THE MACKENZIE HARDLINERS INSISTING ON MAXIMUM
BENEFITS FOR CANADA BEFORE SWITCHING OVER. TRUDEAU
MAY TRY TO BREAK THE IMPASSE BY REQUESTING PRESIDENT
CARTER'S COOPERATION IN DEVISING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE
ROUTE. (OTTAWA 7082, SECRET/EXDIS)

5. BERLIN TRIAL PROVOKES POLITICAL WRANGLING

EMBASSY BONN IS CONCERNED THAT THE SOVIET PROTESTS OVER
FRG PLANS TO PROSECUTE THE LORENZ-KIDNAPPING CASE IN WEST
BERLIN MAY LEAD TO A CONFRONTATION AMONG THE FRG AND THE
ALLIES, WITH NO TWO PARTIES ENTIRELY IN ACCORD. DESPITE
APPARENT FRENCH MISGIVINGS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE
ALLIES NOW HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO INSIST THE TRIAL HAS
NO BEARING ON THE QUADRUPARTITE AGREEMENT, AND TO BACK
THE FRG'S RIGHT TO HOLD IT IN BERLIN. (BONN 12843, CONF/
EXDIS) CHRISTOPHER

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